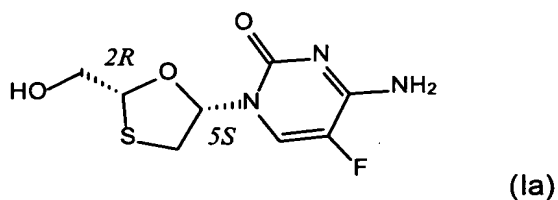
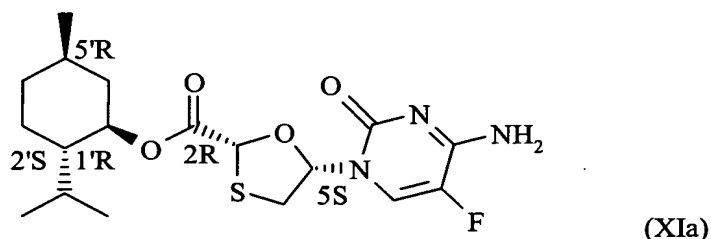


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1.(Currently Amended) Process for preparing emtricitabine of formula



which comprises the salification reaction of the intermediate compound of formula



dissolved in a suitable solvent, by treatment with an organic or mineral ~~[[acids]]~~ acid to give the corresponding salt.

- 2.(Currently Amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the intermediate compound of formula XIa is dissolved in a suitable solvent by treatment with organic or mineral acids to give~~ wherein the corresponding salt is in readily isolable solid form.

- 3.(Currently Amended) The process of ~~Process according to~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the solvent is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of alcohols, hydrocarbons, esters, ethers, ~~[[and]]~~ chlorinated solvents, ~~[[or]]~~ and mixtures thereof.

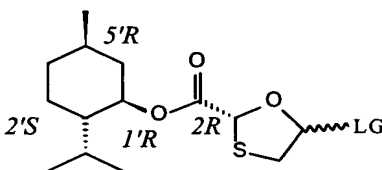
- 4.(Currently Amended) The process of ~~Process~~ according to Claim 3, characterized in that wherein the solvent is chosen selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, toluene, ethyl acetate, propyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, butyl acetate, isobutyl acetate, tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, [[and]] methylene chloride, [[or]] and mixtures thereof [[, preferably from methanol, isopropanol and ethyl acetate, or mixtures thereof]].
- 5.(Currently Amended) The process of ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, characterized in that the wherein said organic or mineral acid is [[chosen]] selected from the group consisting of fumaric acid, maleic acid, lactic acid, salicylic acid, succinic acid, glycolic acid, tartaric acid, acetic acid, citric acid, formic acid, benzoic acid, malonic acid, oxalic acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulphuric acid, nitric acid, perchloric acid, phosphoric acid, p-toluenesulphonic acid, methanesulphonic acid, 2-naphthalenesulphonic acid, benzenesulphonic acid, [[and]] 4-chlorobenzenesulphonic acid, and mixtures thereof.
- 6.(Currently Amended) The process of ~~Process~~ according to Claim 5, characterized in that the wherein said organic or mineral acid is [[chosen]] selected from the group consisting of oxalic acid, succinic acid, maleic acid, methanesulphonic acid, 4-chlorobenzene-sulphonic acid, [[and]] hydrochloric acid, and mixtures thereof [[and is preferably oxalic acid]].
- 7.(Currently Amended) The process of ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, further comprising isolating [[characterized in that the]] said corresponding salt [[is isolated]] by filtration.

- 8.(Currently Amended) The process of ~~Process according to~~ Claim 1, which further comprises ~~the condensation reaction between~~ condensing 5-fluorocytosine of formula (III)



(III)

in suitably activated form, and the compound of formula (VI)



(VI)

in which LG represents a leaving group ~~[[chosen]]~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~[[from]]~~ acetate, halo, cyano, ~~[[optionally]]~~ halogenated alkylsulphonate, ~~[[alkylsulphonates, or]]~~ arylsulphonate ~~arylsulphonates~~, and mixtures thereof, to give the compound of formula XIa.

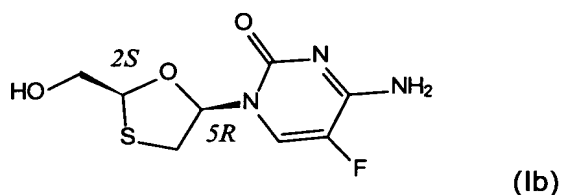
9. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~Process according to~~ Claim 8, in which LG represents a leaving group ~~chosen from~~ selected from the group consisting of acetate, chloro, bromo, iodo, methanesulphonate, triflate, tosylate, ~~[[and]]~~ benzenesulphonate, and mixtures thereof ~~[[and preferably from chloro and acetate]]~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, further comprising reducing ~~Process according to Claim 1 or 8, which further comprises the reduction reaction of~~ compound XIa to give emtricitabine (Ia).

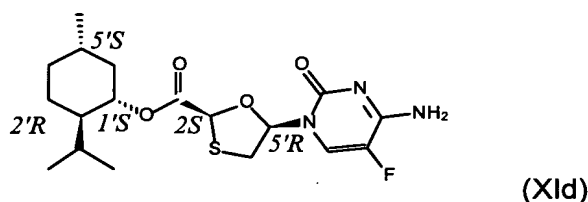
11. (Original) Process according to Claim 10, characterized in that the said reduction reaction is performed by releasing in situ the base of compound XIa from its isolated salt via a basic treatment.

12. (Canceled)

13.(Original) Process for preparing the compound of formula



which comprises the salification reaction of the intermediate compound of formula



dissolved in a suitable solvent, by treatment with organic or mineral acids to give the corresponding salt, which is insoluble in the said solvent, in readily isolable solid form.

14.(New) The process of Claim 3, wherein the solvent is from the group consisting of methanol, isopropanol, ethyl acetate, and mixtures thereof.

15.(New) The process of Claim 8, in which LG represents a leaving group selected from the group consisting of chloro, acetate, and mixtures thereof.

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Preliminary Amendment prior to Examination

16.(New)

The process of Claim 5, wherein said organic or mineral acid is

oxalic acid.

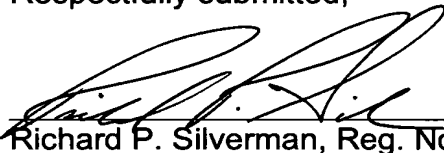
REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims to attend to housekeeping and to place the Application in proper form for examination. Applicant amended the Specification to correct an obvious typographical error which was not earlier noticed. An Abstract of the Disclosure is now provided. Support for the Abstract can be found in Applicant's Specification in paragraphs [001] and [002], and originally filed claim 1. It is believed that no new matter was introduced by this amendment.

Claims 1-12 were amended to attend to formal matters. Support for amended claims 1-12 may be found in originally filed claims 1-13. Support for new claims 14-16 may be found in original claims 4, 6, and 9. It is believed that no new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Claim 12 was canceled.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 03-2060.

Respectfully submitted,


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